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12. (Amended) A slidable member used in contact with lubricating oil comprising:

a substrate; and

a hard carbon-based film coated on a surface of said substrate, said hard carbon-based film having a surface section which contains at least one of nitrogen in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 30 at%, oxygen in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 30 at%, and hydrogen in an amount of not more than 10 at%.

REMARKS

In reply to the Office Action dated July 2, 2001, applicants hereby elect the claims of Group I, claims 1-8 and 10-12, for prosecution in the subject application. Applicants, of course, reserve the right to file a divisional application(s) covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

In addition, applicants have amended claims 1-8 and 10-12 to replace "slidably movable member" with --slidable member--. The examiner is respectfully requested to enter these amendments prior to examination of the instant application. The amendments merely place the claims in better readable form and are not deemed to change the scope of the invention.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

Mary Michelle Kile
Mary Michelle Kile
Registration No. 35,217

FOLEY & LARDNER
3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
Washington, DC 20007-5109
Phone: (202) 672 - 5300
Facsimile: (202) 672 -5399

SHOULD ADDITIONAL FEES BE NECESSARY IN CONNECTION WITH THE FILING OF THIS PAPER, OR IF A PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME IS REQUIRED FOR TIMELY ACCEPTANCE OF SAME, THE COMMISSIONER IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO CHARGE DEPOSIT ACCOUNT NO. 19-0741 FOR ANY SUCH FEES; AND APPLICANT(S) HEREBY PETITION FOR ANY NEEDED EXTENSION OF TIME.

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADEIN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member used in contact with lubricating oil, comprising:
 - a substrate; and
 - a hard carbon-based film coated on a surface of said substrate, said hard carbon-based film having a surface section which contains at least one of nitrogen and oxygen in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 30 at%.
2. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film is a diamond film formed by a chemical vapor deposition process.
3. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the surface section of said hard carbon-based film contains at least one of nitrogen and oxygen in an amount ranging from 4 to 20 at%.
4. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film has a surface roughness lower than 0.1 μm .
5. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film has a hardness Hv higher than 1000.
6. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film has a thickness ranging from 1 to 10 μm , wherein said hard carbon-based film has a coefficient of friction of not higher than 0.07 in a condition where said hard carbon-based film is dipped in a lubricating oil.
7. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said substrate is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of silicon nitride and steel.

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8. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film is formed of a material selected from the group consisting of diamond polycrystal, amorphous carbon, and diamond like carbon.

10. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member used in contact with lubricating oil, comprising:

a substrate; and

a hard carbon-based film coated on a surface of said substrate, said hard carbon-based film having a surface section which contains hydrogen in an amount of not more than 10 at%.

11. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member as claimed in Claim 1, wherein said hard carbon-based film is formed by one of a carbon ion beam process, a thermal chemical vapor deposition process, an ion plating process, and a sputtering process.

12. (Amended) A [slidably movable member] slidable member used in contact with lubricating oil, comprising:

a substrate; and

a hard carbon-based film coated on a surface of said substrate, said hard carbon-based film having a surface section which contains at least one of nitrogen in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 30 at%, oxygen in an amount ranging from 0.5 to 30 at%, and hydrogen in an amount of not more than 10 at%.